

Senate File 2033 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2033
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3031)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to school improvement and the approval
2 and revocation of charter schools, the establishment of
3 innovation zone schools by consortia of school districts
4 and area education agencies, and the implementation of
5 interventions for persistently lowest-achieving schools.
6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.9, Code Supplement 2009, is amended
2 by adding the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 60. *a.* Require a school district that has
4 one or more attendance centers identified by the department as
5 a persistently lowest-achieving school to implement one or more
6 of the interventions mandated by the United States department
7 of education for a persistently lowest-achieving school
8 pursuant to the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub.
9 L. No. 107-110 § 1003(g), 20 U.S.C. § 6303(g), and any federal
10 regulations adopted pursuant to the federal Act.

11 *b.* A school district required to implement one or more
12 interventions pursuant to paragraph "a" and the employee
13 organization representing the school district's teachers
14 shall meet at reasonable times to negotiate a memorandum of
15 understanding that contains an agreement on the specific
16 intervention to be implemented and a provision stating that
17 the terms of any collective bargaining agreement between
18 the parties shall remain in effect and unaltered except as
19 specifically agreed to in the memorandum of understanding.
20 If the parties are unable to reach an agreement on the
21 memorandum of understanding within forty-five days of the date
22 the school district is notified that it has a persistently
23 lowest-achieving school, the school district and the employee
24 organization representing the school district's teachers shall,
25 within five days, select an impartial and disinterested person
26 to serve as a mediator. The mediator shall attempt to bring
27 the parties together to effectuate a settlement of the dispute,
28 but the mediator shall not compel the parties to agree. If
29 mediation fails to result in a mutually agreed to memorandum
30 of understanding, not later than thirty days after selecting
31 the mediator the school district shall not receive any school
32 improvement funds under Tit. I of the federal Elementary and
33 Secondary Act of 1965 for the attendance center identified
34 as a persistently lowest-achieving school. The memorandum
35 of understanding remains in effect for the period of time

1 that an attendance center is identified as a persistently
2 lowest-achieving school unless a duration period is included in
3 the memorandum of understanding or the parties mutually agree
4 to amend the memorandum of understanding.

5 Sec. 2. Section 256F.1, subsection 1, Code 2009, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 1. Charter schools and innovation zone schools shall be part
8 of the state's program of public education.

9 Sec. 3. Section 256F.1, subsection 3, unnumbered paragraph
10 1, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

11 The purpose of a charter school or an innovation zone
12 school established pursuant to this chapter shall be to
13 accomplish the following:

14 Sec. 4. Section 256F.1, subsection 3, Code 2009, is amended
15 by adding the following new paragraphs:

16 NEW PARAGRAPH. *g.* Create different organizational
17 structures for continuous learner progress.

18 NEW PARAGRAPH. *h.* Allow greater flexibility to meet the
19 education needs of a diverse and constantly changing student
20 population.

21 NEW PARAGRAPH. *i.* Allow for the allocation of resources in
22 innovative ways through implementation of specialized school
23 budgets for the benefit of the schools served.

24 Sec. 5. Section 256F.1, Code 2009, is amended by adding the
25 following new subsection:

26 NEW SUBSECTION. 4. An innovation zone school may be
27 established pursuant to this chapter to encourage diverse
28 approaches to learning and education within individual schools.

29 Sec. 6. Section 256F.2, subsection 1, Code 2009, is amended
30 to read as follows:

31 1. "*Advisory council*" means a council appointed by the
32 school board of directors of a charter school or an innovation
33 zone consortium pursuant to section 256F.5, subsection 4.

34 Sec. 7. Section 256F.2, Code 2009, is amended by adding the
35 following new subsection:

1 NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. "*Area education agency board*" means
2 the board of directors of an area education agency established
3 pursuant to chapter 273.

4 Sec. 8. Section 256F.2, subsection 3, Code 2009, is amended
5 to read as follows:

6 3. "*Charter school*" means a ~~state public~~ charter school
7 ~~operated as a pilot program~~ established in accordance with this
8 chapter.

9 Sec. 9. Section 256F.2, subsection 4A, Code 2009, is amended
10 by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the
11 following:

12 4A. "*Innovation zone consortium*" means a consortium of two
13 or more school districts and an area education agency in which
14 one or more of the school districts is located, that receives
15 approval to establish an innovation zone school pursuant to
16 this chapter. In addition, the innovation zone consortium
17 may receive technical assistance from an accredited higher
18 education institution.

19 4B. "*Innovation zone school*" means a public school
20 administered by a principal that is, pursuant to an innovation
21 zone school contract entered into by an innovation zone
22 consortium pursuant to section 256F.6, established as an
23 innovation zone school.

24 Sec. 10. Section 256F.3, Code 2009, is amended to read as
25 follows:

26 **256F.3 ~~Pilot program — application~~ Application.**

27 1. The state board of education shall apply for a federal
28 grant under Pub. L. No. 107-110, cited as the federal No
29 Child Left Behind Act of 2001 ~~{Title, Tit. V, Part Pt. B,~~
30 ~~Subpart Subpt. 1}~~, for purposes of providing financial
31 assistance for the planning, program design, and initial
32 implementation of public charter schools. The department shall
33 ~~initiate a pilot program to test~~ monitor the effectiveness of
34 charter schools and shall implement the applicable provisions
35 of this chapter.

1 2. a. To receive approval to establish a charter school
2 in accordance with this chapter, the principal, teachers,
3 or parents or guardians of students at an existing public
4 school shall submit an application to the school board to
5 convert an existing attendance center to a charter school.
6 An attendance center shall not enter into a charter school
7 contract with a school district under this chapter unless the
8 attendance center is located within the school district. The
9 application shall demonstrate the support of at least fifty
10 percent of the teachers employed at the school on the date of
11 the submission of the application and fifty percent of the
12 parents or guardians voting whose children are enrolled at the
13 school, provided that a majority of the parents or guardians
14 eligible to vote participate in the ballot process, according
15 to procedures established by rules of the state board.

16 b. To receive approval to establish an innovation zone
17 school in accordance with this chapter, an innovation zone
18 consortium shall submit an application to the state board
19 which demonstrates the support of at least fifty percent of
20 the teachers employed at each proposed innovation zone school
21 on the date of the submission of the application and fifty
22 percent of the parents or guardians voting whose children are
23 enrolled at each proposed innovation zone school, provided
24 that a majority of the parents or guardians eligible to vote
25 participate in the ballot process, according to procedures
26 established by rules of the state board.

27 c. A parent or guardian voting in accordance with this
28 subsection must be a resident of this state.

29 3. A school board shall receive and review all applications
30 for converting an existing building or creating a new building
31 for a charter school. Applications received on or before
32 October 1 of a calendar year shall be considered for charter
33 schools to be established at the beginning of the school
34 district's next school year or at a time agreed to by the
35 applicant and the school board. However, a school board may

1 receive and consider applications after October 1 at its
2 discretion.

3 4. A school board shall by a majority vote approve or
4 deny an application relating to a charter school no later
5 than sixty calendar days after the application is received.
6 An application approved by a school board and subsequently
7 approved by the state board pursuant to subsection 6 shall
8 constitute, at a minimum, an agreement between the school board
9 and the charter school for the operation of the charter school.
10 A school board that denies an application for a conversion
11 to a charter school shall provide notice of denial to the
12 applicant in writing within thirty days after board action.
13 The notice shall specify the exact reasons for denial and
14 provide documentation supporting those reasons.

15 5. An applicant may appeal school board denial of the
16 applicant's charter school application to the state board
17 in accordance with the procedures set forth in chapter 290.
18 The state board shall affirm, modify, or reverse the school
19 board's decision on the basis of the information provided in
20 the application indicating the ability and willingness of the
21 proposed charter school to meet the requirements of section
22 256F.1, subsection 3, and section 256F.4.

23 6. Upon approval of an application for the proposed
24 establishment of a charter school, the school board shall
25 submit an application for approval to establish the charter
26 school to the state board in accordance with section 256F.5.

27 7. The An application submitted to the state board pursuant
28 to subsection 2, paragraph "b", or subsection 6 shall set forth
29 the manner in which the charter school or innovation zone
30 school will provide special instruction, in accordance with
31 section 280.4, to students who are limited English proficient.
32 The application shall set forth the manner in which the charter
33 school or innovation zone school will comply with federal and
34 state laws and regulations relating to the federal National
35 School Lunch Act and the federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966,

1 42 U.S.C. § 1751–1785, and chapter 283A. The state board shall
 2 approve only those applications that meet the requirements
 3 specified in section 256F.1, subsection 3, and sections 256F.4
 4 and 256F.5. The state board may deny an application if the
 5 state board deems that approval of the application is not in
 6 the best interest of the affected students. ~~The state board~~
 7 ~~shall approve not more than twenty charter school applications.~~
 8 ~~The state board shall approve not more than one charter school~~
 9 ~~application per school district. The state board shall adopt~~
 10 ~~rules in accordance with chapter 17A for the implementation of~~
 11 ~~this chapter.~~

12 8. The state board shall approve not more than ten
 13 innovation zone consortium applications.

14 ~~7.~~ 9. The state board shall adopt rules in accordance
 15 with chapter 17A for the implementation of this chapter. If
 16 federal rules or regulations relating to the distribution
 17 or utilization of federal funds allocated to the department
 18 pursuant to this section are adopted that are inconsistent with
 19 the provisions of this chapter, the state board shall adopt
 20 rules to comply with the requirements of the federal rules or
 21 regulations. The state board shall identify inconsistencies
 22 between federal and state rules and regulations as provided
 23 in this subsection and shall submit recommendations for
 24 legislative action to the chairpersons and ranking members of
 25 the senate and house standing committees on education at the
 26 next meeting of the general assembly.

27 Sec. 11. Section 256F.4, subsection 1, Code 2009, is amended
 28 to read as follows:

29 1. Within fifteen days after approval of a charter school
 30 or innovation zone school application submitted in accordance
 31 with section 256F.3, subsection 2, a school board or innovation
 32 zone consortium shall report to the department the name of the
 33 charter school applicant if applicable, the proposed charter
 34 school or innovation zone school location, and ~~its~~ the charter
 35 school or innovation zone school's projected enrollment.

1 Sec. 12. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, unnumbered paragraph
2 1, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

3 Although a charter school or innovation zone school may
4 elect to comply with one or more provisions of statute or
5 administrative rule, a charter school or innovation zone
6 school is exempt from all statutes and rules applicable to a
7 school, a school board, or a school district, except that the
8 charter school or innovation zone school shall do all of the
9 following:

10 Sec. 13. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, paragraphs a, g, and
11 j, Code 2009, are amended to read as follows:

12 a. Meet all applicable federal, state, and local health and
13 safety requirements and laws prohibiting discrimination on the
14 basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender
15 identity, national origin, religion, ancestry, or disability.
16 A charter school or innovation zone school shall be subject to
17 any court-ordered desegregation plan in effect for the school
18 district at the time the ~~school's~~ charter school or innovation
19 zone school application is approved.

20 g. Be subject to and comply with chapter 284 relating to
21 the student achievement and teacher quality program. A charter
22 school or innovation zone school that complies with chapter
23 284 shall receive state moneys or be eligible to receive state
24 moneys calculated as provided in ~~chapter 284~~ section 257.10,
25 subsections 9 and 10, and section 257.37A as if it did not
26 operate under a charter school or innovation zone school
27 contract.

28 j. Meetings and records of the advisory council are subject
29 to the provisions of chapters 21 and 22.

30 Sec. 14. Section 256F.4, subsections 3 through 8, Code 2009,
31 are amended to read as follows:

32 3. A charter school or innovation zone school shall not
33 discriminate in its student admissions policies or practices
34 on the basis of intellectual or athletic ability, measures
35 of achievement or aptitude, or status as a person with a

1 disability. However, a charter school or innovation zone
2 school may limit admission to students who are within a
3 particular range of ages or grade levels or on any other
4 basis that would be legal if initiated by a school district.
5 Enrollment priority shall be given to the siblings of students
6 enrolled in a charter school or innovation zone school.

7 4. A charter school or innovation zone school shall
8 enroll an eligible resident student who submits a timely
9 application unless the number of applications exceeds the
10 capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building. In
11 this case, students must be accepted by lot. A charter school
12 or innovation zone school may enroll an eligible nonresident
13 student who submits a timely application in accordance with
14 the student admission policy established pursuant to section
15 256F.5, subsection 1. If the charter school or innovation zone
16 school enrolls an eligible nonresident student, the charter
17 school or innovation zone school shall notify the school
18 district of residence and the sending district not later than
19 March 1 of the preceding school year. Transportation for the
20 student shall be in accordance with section 282.18, subsection
21 10. The sending district shall make payments to the charter
22 school or innovation zone consortium in the manner required
23 under section 282.18, subsection 7. If the nonresident pupil
24 is also an eligible pupil under section 261E.6, the innovation
25 zone consortium shall pay the tuition reimbursement amount to
26 an eligible postsecondary institution as provided in section
27 261E.7.

28 5. A charter school or innovation zone school shall provide
29 instruction for at least the number of days required by section
30 279.10, subsection 1, or shall provide at least the equivalent
31 number of total hours.

32 6. Notwithstanding subsection 2, a charter school or
33 innovation zone school shall meet the requirements of section
34 256.7, subsection 21.

35 7. a. A charter school shall be considered a part of the

1 school district in which it is located for purposes of state
2 school foundation aid pursuant to chapter 257.

3 b. Students enrolled in an innovation zone school shall
4 be counted, for state school foundation aid purposes, in the
5 student's district of residence.

6 8. A charter school or innovation zone consortium may enter
7 into contracts in accordance with chapter 26.

8 Sec. 15. Section 256F.5, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2009,
9 is amended to read as follows:

10 An application to the state board for the approval of a
11 charter school or innovation zone school shall include, but
12 shall not be limited to, a description of the following:

13 Sec. 16. Section 256F.5, subsections 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10,
14 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, Code 2009, are amended to read as
15 follows:

16 1. The method for admission to the charter school or
17 innovation zone school.

18 2. The mission, purpose, innovation, and specialized focus
19 of the charter school or innovation zone school.

20 4. The method for appointing or forming an advisory
21 council for the charter school or innovation zone school.
22 The membership of an advisory council appointed or formed in
23 accordance with this chapter shall not include more than one
24 member of ~~the~~ a participating school board.

25 6. The charter school or innovation zone school governance
26 and bylaws.

27 7. The financial plan for the operation of the
28 charter school or innovation zone school including, at a
29 minimum, a listing of the support services the school district
30 or innovation zone consortium will provide, and the charter
31 ~~school's~~ school or innovation zone school's revenues, budgets,
32 and expenditures.

33 10. The organization of the school or innovation zone
34 school in terms of ages of students or grades to be taught
35 along with an estimate of the total enrollment of the

1 charter school or innovation zone school.

2 12. A statement indicating how the charter school or
3 innovation zone school will meet the requirements of section
4 256F.1, ~~subsection 3 as applicable~~; section 256F.4, subsection
5 2, paragraph "a"; and section 256F.4, subsection 3.

6 13. Assurance of the assumption of liability by the charter
7 school or the innovation zone consortium for the innovation
8 zone school.

9 14. The types and amounts of insurance coverage to be
10 obtained by the charter school or innovation zone consortium
11 for the innovation zone school.

12 15. A plan of operation to be implemented if the charter
13 school or innovation zone consortium revokes or fails to renew
14 its contract.

15 16. The means, costs, and plan for providing transportation
16 for students ~~attending~~ enrolled in the charter school or
17 innovation zone school.

18 17. The specific statutes, administrative rules, and school
19 board policies with which the charter school or innovation zone
20 school does not intend to comply.

21 Sec. 17. Section 256F.6, subsection 1, Code 2009, is amended
22 to read as follows:

23 1. a. An approved charter school or innovation zone
24 school application shall constitute an agreement, the terms
25 of which shall, at a minimum, be the terms of a four-year
26 enforceable, renewable contract between ~~the~~ a school board, or
27 the boards participating in an innovation zone consortium, and
28 the state board. The contract shall include an operating
29 agreement for the operation of the charter school or innovation
30 zone school. The terms of the contract may be revised at
31 any time with the approval of both the state board and the
32 school board or the boards participating in the innovation
33 zone consortium, whether or not the stated provisions of the
34 contract are being fulfilled.

35 b. A contract may be renewed by agreement of the school

1 board or the boards participating in an innovation zone
2 consortium, as applicable, and the state board.

3 c. The charter school or innovation zone consortium shall
4 provide parents and guardians of students enrolled in the
5 charter school or innovation zone school with a copy of the
6 charter school or innovation zone school application approved
7 pursuant to section 256F.5.

8 Sec. 18. Section 256F.7, Code 2009, is amended to read as
9 follows:

10 **256F.7 Employment and related matters.**

11 1. A charter school or the boards participating in an
12 innovation zone consortium shall employ or contract with
13 necessary teachers and administrators, as defined in section
14 272.1, who hold a valid license with an endorsement for the
15 type of service for which the teacher or administrator is
16 employed.

17 2. The school board or innovation zone consortium, as
18 specified in the application, in consultation with the advisory
19 council, shall decide matters related to the operation of the
20 charter school or innovation zone school, including budgeting,
21 curriculum, and operating procedures.

22 3. a. Employees of a charter school shall be considered
23 employees of the school district.

24 b. Employees of an innovation zone school shall be
25 considered employees of a board participating in the innovation
26 zone consortium.

27 Sec. 19. Section 256F.8, subsections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, Code
28 2009, are amended to read as follows:

29 1. A contract for the establishment of a charter school
30 or innovation zone school may be revoked by the state
31 board, ~~or~~ the school board that established the charter
32 school, or the innovation zone consortium that established
33 the innovation zone school if the appropriate board or
34 consortium determines that one or more of the following
35 occurred:

1 a. Failure of the charter school or innovation zone
2 school to abide by and meet the provisions set forth in the
3 contract, including educational goals.

4 b. Failure of the charter school or innovation zone
5 school to comply with all applicable law.

6 c. Failure of the charter school or innovation zone
7 school to meet generally accepted public sector accounting
8 principles.

9 d. The existence of one or more other grounds for revocation
10 as specified in the contract.

11 e. Assessment of student progress, which is administered
12 in accordance with state and locally determined indicators
13 established pursuant to rules adopted by the state board,
14 does not show improvement in student progress over that
15 which existed in the same student population prior to the
16 establishment of the charter school or the innovation zone
17 school.

18 2. The decision by a school board or an innovation zone
19 consortium to revoke or to fail to take action to renew a
20 charter school or innovation zone school contract is subject to
21 appeal under procedures set forth in chapter 290.

22 3. A school board or a board participating in an innovation
23 zone consortium that is considering revocation or nonrenewal
24 of a charter school or innovation zone school contract shall
25 notify the advisory council, the parents or guardians of the
26 students enrolled in the charter school or innovation zone
27 school, and the teachers and administrators employed by the
28 charter school or innovation zone school, sixty days prior to
29 revoking or the date by which the contract must be renewed, but
30 not later than the last day of classes in the school year.

31 4. If the state board determines that a charter school or
32 innovation zone school is in substantial violation of the terms
33 of the contract, the state board shall notify the school board
34 or innovation zone consortium and the advisory council of its
35 intention to revoke the contract at least sixty days prior to

1 revoking a contract and the school board or the school boards
 2 participating in the innovation zone consortium shall assume
 3 oversight authority, operational authority, or both oversight
 4 and operational authority. The notice shall state the
 5 grounds for the proposed action in writing and in reasonable
 6 detail. The school board or innovation zone consortium may
 7 request in writing an informal hearing before the state board
 8 within fourteen days of receiving notice of revocation of
 9 the contract. Upon receiving a timely written request for a
 10 hearing, the state board shall give reasonable notice to the
 11 school board or innovation zone consortium of the hearing
 12 date. The state board shall conduct an informal hearing before
 13 taking final action. Final action to revoke a contract shall
 14 be taken in a manner least disruptive to students enrolled in
 15 the charter school or innovation zone school. The state board
 16 shall take final action to revoke or approve continuation of
 17 a contract by the last day of classes in the school year. If
 18 the final action to revoke a contract under this section occurs
 19 prior to the last day of classes in the school year, a charter
 20 school or innovation zone school student may enroll in the
 21 resident district.

22 6. A school board revoking a contract or a school board,
 23 innovation zone consortium, or advisory council that fails
 24 to renew a contract under this chapter is not liable for
 25 that action to the charter school or innovation zone school,
 26 a student enrolled in the charter school or innovation zone
 27 school or the student's parent or guardian, or any other
 28 person.

29 Sec. 20. Section 256F.8, subsection 7, Code 2009, is amended
 30 by striking the subsection.

31 Sec. 21. Section 256F.9, Code Supplement 2009, is amended
 32 to read as follows:

33 **256F.9 Procedures after revocation — student enrollment.**

34 If a charter school or innovation zone school contract is
 35 revoked in accordance with this chapter, a nonresident student

1 who attended the school, and any siblings of the student,
 2 shall be determined to have shown "good cause" as provided in
 3 section 282.18, subsection 4, paragraph "b", and may submit an
 4 application to another school district according to section
 5 282.18 at any time. Applications and notices required by
 6 section 282.18 shall be processed and provided in a prompt
 7 manner. The application and notice deadlines in section 282.18
 8 do not apply to a nonresident student application under these
 9 circumstances.

10 Sec. 22. Section 256F.10, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2009,
 11 are amended to read as follows:

12 1. A charter school or innovation zone school shall
 13 report at least annually to the school board or innovation
 14 zone consortium, advisory council, and the state board the
 15 information required by the school board or innovation zone
 16 consortium, advisory council, or the state board. The reports
 17 are public records subject to chapter 22.

18 2. Not later than December 1, ~~2003~~, and annually thereafter,
 19 the state board shall submit a comprehensive report, with
 20 findings and recommendations, to the ~~senate and house standing~~
 21 ~~committees on education~~ general assembly. The report shall
 22 evaluate the state's charter school and innovation zone
 23 school programs generally, including but not limited to, an
 24 evaluation of whether the ~~pilot programs~~ charter schools
 25 and innovation zone schools are fulfilling the purposes
 26 set forth in section 256F.4, subsection 2. The report also
 27 shall contain, for each charter school or innovation zone
 28 school, a copy of the charter ~~school's~~ school or innovation
 29 zone school's mission statement, attendance statistics and
 30 dropout rate, aggregate assessment test scores, projections of
 31 financial stability, the number and qualifications of teachers
 32 and administrators, and number of and comments on supervisory
 33 visits by the department of education.

34 Sec. 23. REPEAL. Section 256F.11, Code 2009, is repealed.

1 EXPLANATION

2 This bill relates to the approval and revocation of charter
3 schools, the establishment of innovation zone schools by
4 a consortium of two or more school districts and an area
5 education agency, and provides for the implementation of
6 interventions for lowest-achieving schools.

7 PERSISTENTLY LOWEST-ACHIEVING SCHOOLS. The bill directs the
8 director of the department of education to require a school
9 district that has one or more attendance centers identified by
10 the department as a persistently lowest-achieving school to
11 implement one or more of the interventions mandated by the U.S.
12 department of education.

13 A school district required to implement one or more
14 interventions and the employee organization representing the
15 school district's teachers must meet at reasonable times to
16 negotiate a memorandum of understanding that contains an
17 agreement on the specific intervention to be implemented and a
18 provision stating that the terms of any collective bargaining
19 agreement between the parties shall remain in effect and
20 unaltered except as specifically agreed to in the memorandum
21 of understanding. If the parties are unable to reach an
22 agreement within 45 days, the school district and the employee
23 organization shall select an impartial and disinterested
24 person to serve as a mediator, who shall not compel the
25 parties to agree. If mediation fails, the school district
26 shall not receive any school improvement funds, under Tit. I
27 of the federal Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965, for the
28 attendance center identified as a persistently lowest-achieving
29 school. The memorandum of understanding remains in effect for
30 the period of time that an attendance center is identified as a
31 persistently lowest-achieving school unless a duration period
32 is included in the memorandum of understanding or the parties
33 mutually agree to amend the memorandum of understanding.

34 CHARTER SCHOOLS. The bill eliminates references to the
35 pilot program status of the state's charter school law;

1 eliminates a limitation on the number of charter schools the
2 state board of education may approve for operation; adds a
3 factor for which a charter school contract may be revoked;
4 and eliminates the future repeal of Code chapter 256F, which
5 provides for the creation or conversion of charter schools by
6 school districts.

7 The additional factor for which the state board or a
8 school board may revoke a charter school contract is when an
9 assessment of student progress administered in accordance
10 with state and locally determined indicators does not show
11 improvement in student progress over that which existed in the
12 same student population prior to establishment of the charter
13 school.

14 INNOVATION ZONES. The bill provides for the establishment
15 of innovation zone schools by two or more school districts and
16 an area education agency as part of the state's program of
17 public education. The purpose of an innovation zone school
18 is to improve student learning. Like charter schools, an
19 innovation zone school is not required to comply with state
20 statutes, rules, or regulations applicable to a school, a
21 school board, or a school district, except those relating
22 to applicable federal, state, and local health and safety
23 requirements; civil and human rights; financial audit
24 requirements; collective bargaining and practitioner contracts;
25 professional development and practitioner evaluation; special
26 education; transportation of students; comprehensive school
27 improvement plan requirements; and core curriculum and core
28 content standards requirements. Innovation zone schools are
29 subject to the same general operating, contract, renewal and
30 revocation, and report requirements as charter schools.